

CHAPTER 105

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

A. GENERAL

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1. Standards. Standards for rail service will comply with MTMC Military Rail Agreement (MR./I). Rail agreements will be distributed by MTMC/MTOP-QQ to the appropriate TOS. In overseas areas theater commanders will establish standards in accordance with host country agreements and conventions.

2. Authority. Except as otherwise specifically provided in travel orders, accommodations by AMTRAK rail transportation will be provided to military members and DoD civilian employees as determined by the TO (reference JFTR U3135, and JTR C2203). The TO does not have the authority to determine the use of rail ~~except~~ when AMTRAK is a contract carrier between applicable duty points. Rail should be provided only when it will meet mission requirements and is the most cost effective mode taking into consideration travel time, per diem, and miscellaneous expenses.

B. ROUTING AUTHORITY

Air is the preferred mode of travel unless the orders issuing authority specifies otherwise in traveler's orders. When rail is the selected mode of travel all routings will be done by the TO. TOS have the option of requesting assistance from MTMC/MTOP-OM or appropriate overseas agency.

C. BAGGAGE

Under the AMTRAK Tender of Service, the checked baggage allowance for each person is 150 pounds. In overseas areas the allowance may vary by carrier. Excess baggage may be carried when specifically authorized in the travel order. Travelers are responsible for off-loading baggage from privately-owned and government vehicles and making it available to the carrier at their check in point.

D. GOVERNMENT-OWNED ANIMALS

Government-owned animals, when accompanied by an attendant holding a valid travel document or ticket, should be shipped in appropriate containers as excess baggage.

E. MILITARY IMPEDIMENTA

Military impedimenta, as distinguished from articles included in the free baggage allowance under the Tender of Service and the baggage tariffs of carriers in connection with troop movements, handled in a passenger train service will be covered by a GBL. GBLs will be endorsed in the "routing via" space to indicate "Passenger Train Service Required."

F. WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

1. Privately Owned. Travelers are responsible to comply with all laws and regulations of the United States, its territories, foreign countries, and local municipalities with regard to possession, carrying, and shipping of weapons and ammunition.

: - 2. Government Owned. Travelers using rail must have the authority to carry weapons included in the travel orders. TOS are responsible to ensure travelers, commanders, and/or designated agents are briefed on all laws and regulations of the United States, its territories, foreign countries, and local municipalities with regard to possession, carrying, and shipping of weapons and ammunition. TOS will coordinate with carrier, station managers, and/or charter representatives, on requirements and security.

3. See Appendix L for additional information.

G. RAIL TRAVEL DATA REPORTING

Reporting requirement for rail travel data is contained in Appendix J.